UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Monday, September 15, 2025

Straws in the Wind - Part 102

From House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party: *Over the past two years, the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party and the Committee on Education and the Workforce's (Committees) investigations revealed how the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) exploits U.S. universities to fuel its military and technological rise...*

This report provides new findings on joint institutes and other problematic partnerships between U.S. universities and the PRC, new information on stepped-up enforcement of foreign gift disclosure rules and university responses. This investigation:

1. *Further highlights the risks these partnerships pose,*
2. *Exposes universities that continue to ignore the risks,*
3. *Identifies dozens of not-yet-reported academic collaborations that create risks to U.S. national security,*
4. *Examines changes in university disclosures of foreign funding, and*
5. *Reveals the impact of the Trump Administration's stepped-up enforcement of foreign gift reporting requirements.*

...Since the time of the release of our report and our continued investigations, eight universities chose to do the right thing for academic freedom and U.S. national security by shuttering their joint institutes with Chinese partners. These include the University of California, Berkeley; Georgia Institute of Technology; University of Michigan; University of Pittsburgh; Oakland University; University of Detroit Mercy; Eastern Michigan University; and University of Illinois.

But many others have not. Last fall, the Committees identified high-risk joint institutes at the following universities, all of which have failed to act: Duke University; University of Arizona; University of Delaware; Drake University; University of Houston; Kean University; University of Miami; New York University; University of North Alabama; Northeastern State University (Tahlequah); Portland State University; State University of New York - Stony Brook; and Trine University...

These partnerships must end...

Full report at https://selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/joint-institutes-report-final.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: East Michigan U, Georgia Tech, Oakland U, politics, U of Detroit, U of Illinois, U of Michigan, U of Pittsburgh, UC-Berkeley

Glad to Hear There's Extra Money Around - Part 2

From LA Times: *The DeShaun Foster era is over after 15 games and just five victories, the former UCLA star running back's storybook rise to head coach at his alma mater coming to an abrupt, deflating end. After an 0-3 start that included back-to-back losses to Mountain West Conference teams, Foster was dismissed on Sunday in a move that showed the Bruins will no longer accept their status as the laughingstock of the college football world...*

Foster, who compiled a 5-10 record in a little more than one full season, is owed roughly $6.43 million in buyout money *per the terms of his five-year contract, barring a new job that offsets that amount. UCLA said it would pay Foster's buyout from athletic department-generated funds...*

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Faculty are fighting back
- Faculty Lawsuit Demands Public Access to Trump Administration's Settlement Demands on University of California
- Coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the UC and the California economy
- Stand up for values in the face of Trump's $300 million cut to UCLA scholars
- Faculty leaders comment on UCB Chancellor Lyon's appearance before House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 39. Attack Theory for Education - 9/28/2025
- Liner Note 38. The University of California's Charlie Kirk Tribute Act - 9/16/2025
- Why Should We "Stand Up for the UC?" (Guest Post) - 9/1/2025

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- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

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Full story at https://www.latimes.com/sports/ucla/story/2025-09-14/ucla-fires-football-coach-deshaun-foster-after-winless-start.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Think Before You Tweet

UCLA statement on recent social media content

UCLA Newsroom

September 13, 2025

https://newsroom.ucla.edu/ucla-statement-on-inappropriate-statements-on-social-media

UCLA condemns in the strongest possible terms the offensive and inappropriate comments that have been posted on personal social media accounts about the death of Charlie Kirk. While we respect free expression, statements that celebrate or condone violence are inconsistent with our core values. Universities are a place where we can have a respectful dialogue about different perspectives, but violence has no place on any campus. In keeping with our principles and policies, we have initiated an investigation.

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Chancellor Frenk shares UC President Milliken's statement about violence on campuses

UCLA Newsroom

September 11, 2025

https://newsroom.ucla.edu/chancellor-frenk-shares-uc-president-millikens-statement-about-violence-on-campuses

Chancellor Julio Frenk said:

"I encourage you to read UC President Milliken's statement [below]. Any act of violence on a campus that targets debate and free expression is a violation of our core values. Universities are spaces where we deal with differences through reason and debate — not hate and violence."

===

Statement from President James B. Milliken

UC Office of the President

September 10, 2025

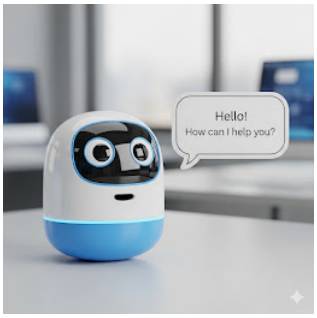
https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/statement-president-james-b-milliken

The murder of Charlie Kirk today at Utah Valley University was tragic and reprehensible. Political violence has no place in our society and on our campuses. This wasn't just an attack on an individual; it was an attack on the very freedoms we as a nation hold dear. This is a very sad day.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 1:14 PM No comments:

Labels: politics

Admissions AI



No, it's not cute like in the image. But UCLA has rolled out an AI chatbot for admissions and financial aid.

Yours truly put in a few questions and it worked reasonably well.

Admissions:

https://admission.ucla.edu/

Financial aid:

https://financialaid.ucla.edu/

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*https://dts.ucla.edu/newsroom/ai-in-action-transforming-uclas-enrollment-management-support-with-bruinchat.

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 101

From Port City Daily: *A new report from [U of North Carolina-Wilmington] details more removals and alterations leadership have made to comply with the UNC System's 2024 equality policy, showing the university is continuing to dig deeper into ensuring compliance. After the UNC System implemented a policy banning Diversity, Equity and Inclusion practices and affirming institutional neutrality last year, UNCW eliminated its Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and removed leadership of its four cultural centers, as detailed in a Sept. 1 report. This year's report shows UNCW has gone further, retailoring a mentorship program, "realigning" private scholarships and making some course content optional.*

UNCW also plans to compile data on each of the cultural centers — Upperman African American Cultural Center, Centro Hispano, Mohin-Scholz LGBTQIA Resource Center and the Asian Heritage Cultural Center — to ensure they are a boon to student success for all attendees. The report shows these new modifications were discussed by the DEI subcommittee, which met twice over the past month, though largely in closed session away from public observation...

The subcommittee approved of the Sept. 1 compliance report. It notes discussions included guidance on required classes and establishing a "structure process to collect and analyze data regarding the impact" of the four cultural centers, now referred to as "student success centers." ...

Full story at https://portcitydaily.com/latest-news/2025/09/07/uncw-details-more-actions-taken-to-root-out-dei-at-university/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, U of North Carolina

They're not all in Nigeria

From Patch: *A West Los Angeles man pleaded guilty Wednesday to his role in a "grandparent" scam, in which often-elderly people are duped into sending money to scammers under the pretense that their loved ones are in danger. James Wesley Jackson III, 44, entered his plea in federal court in Los Angeles federal to one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office...*

According to prosecutors, "scammers would contact victims throughout the United States pretending to be relatives of the victims, such as a grandchild, and pretending to be persons in contact with the victims' relatives, such as a lawyer or law enforcement officer. The scammers would falsely claim that the victims' relatives were in legal jeopardy or otherwise in distress, and that the victims' relatives needed the victims to assist by sending them money."...

Full story at https://patch.com/california/santamonica/s/jltci/grandparent-scammer-admits-to-laundering-hundreds-of-thousands-from-victims-doj.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Saturday, September 13, 2025

Still a little coming through

The Harvard Crimson reports that some NIH money for UCLA is, or was, still leaking through despite DOGE intervention to halt payments:

...[The] University of California, Los Angeles — targeted in the most recent round of cuts in late July — still received NIH disbursements in August, ...likely because those drawdowns covered expenses incurred in July before the cuts. The restrictions, and DOGE's involvement, would be more likely to show up starting in September, based on the NIH's typical payment schedule...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/9/8/doge-blocks-nih-grants/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, public funding, UCLA

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